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ABSTRACT

A pamphlet on special aids for senior library users lists items available from the Houston Public Library. Magnifiers (some illuminated), bedspecs (prism glasses), book holders, large print telephone dials, and games suitable for the visually handicapped or bedridden are described. The library's collections of slides and films, both 8mm and 16mm, are described, as are its special services to the homebound and institutionalized and its books by mail system. Mention is made of services available from the Texas state library including large print and braille books and magazines, talking books and magazines, and special aids. A list of manufacturers is provided. (LS)

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Senior Aids for Senio Readers

A Visual Aids Pamphlet

for the

ELDERLY

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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Houston Public Library

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DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

The Houston Public Library's Aging Program, begun in September 1974, provides special services to the elderly through three distinct agencies. The branch-based program is located at CARNEGIE LIBRARY, 1209 Henry Street, Houston, Texas 77009 (Phone: 227-9177). It is the aim of this branch library to serve those elderly living in the area surrounding Carnegie. The Librarian, Stephanie Ardito, provides home-bound service, programs of interest to the elderly, films, large print books, games, magnifiers, and a monthly newsletter.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES, located at 3102 Center Street, Houston, Texas 77007 (Phone: 869-9046), provides services to county-wide places where the elderly gather or reside such as nursing homes or apartment houses. The Librarian, Sophie Beth Pettigrew, lends magazines, book materials, games, and magnifiers, gives book reviews, and shows films and slides to any interested group of "seniors".

Esther Faerber heads the third phase of the Aging Program called BOOKS-BY-MAIL. This agency provides mail service to those who can not leave their homes to go to the library. The borrower pays a very inexpensive return postage and can obtain books, magazines, records, cassettes (all four also available in Spanish), games, or magnifiers through this service. One may obtain more information by going or writing to 3102 Center Street, Houston, Texas 77007, or by calling 869-0318.

*The following aids may be borrowed from any of the preceding agencies.

MAGNIFIERS

Folding Pocket Magnifier

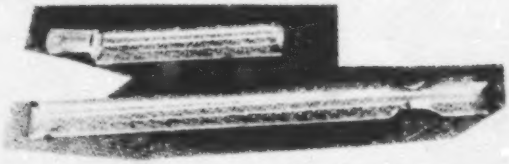
A wide range of sizes and powers make this style of magnifier a favorite among users. One small unit can provide from 3 to 7 different magnifications.

Illuminated Rectangular Reader

Light allows better seeing of small detail.

Cylindrical Magnifier

Rests directly on material and covers long lines of print.



Magna-Lux Magnifier

Handy for desk, work table, or your pocket. Practically unbreakable, its 2-power lens scales 4 inches. Can also be used as a letter opener.

Round Reader

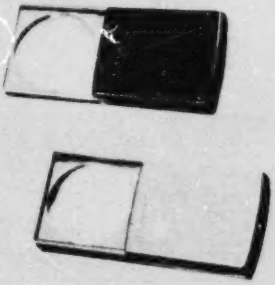
Comfortable to hold for long use.

Attached Case Magnifier

2-power lens which swings into the case for protection. Case serves as a handle when the magnifier is in use.

Packette Magnifier

3-power lens snaps open for use, clicks shut for carrying. Handy for pocket, purse, or desk.



Illuminated Stand Magnifier

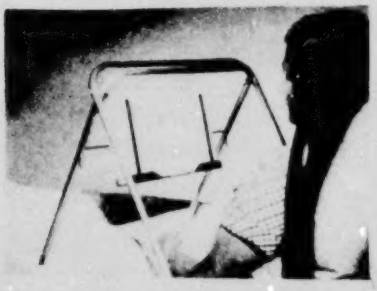
Leaves hands free to look at small objects such as coins and stamps. Extremely useful with hobbies and crafts. Both the lens and 115-volt lamp are adjustable.

BEDSPECS

Bedspecs, or prism glasses, angle your vision just right for seeing down while looking up. One can read in perfect comfort while confined to a bed in a home or hospital. Can be worn with or without regular glasses.

BOOK BUTLER (BOOK HOLDER)

Restful reading while one is lying on his or her back. Relaxed reading in bed while in sitting position. Quickly removed in any position.



TELEPHONE DIAL, LARGE PRINT

Made of durable white plastic, with large raised black numerals, this dial will fit standard telephones. Tape on the back of the dial must be removed so that it will adhere to the telephone. This item is free upon request.

FILMS, 8MM and 16MM

8MM

Over 500 8MM films are located at INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES, 3102 Center Street, Phone: 869-9046. Subjects range from Mack Sennett, Abbott & Costello, Charlie Chaplin, W.C. Fields, Buster Keaton, Laurel & Hardy, Mabel Normand, Will Rogers and The Three Stooges comedies to animal, history, horror, religion,

sports, westerns, travel, and Walt Disney films. One should call a day or so before requesting a film and may pick it up at Institutional Services or arrange to obtain it at their nearest branch library. Films may be returned through the mail at Library Rate or returned to Institutional Services or the nearest branch library. There is no limit on the amount of films to be borrowed.

16MM

A wide range of subjects is also available on 16MM films. There are travel films, educational films, and recreational films. These are located at the CENTRAL LIBRARY, 500 McKinney Avenue, Phone: 224-5411. Call or stop in for more information on check-out procedures.

SLIDES

Slides are located with the 8MM films at INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES. Check-out procedures are the same. Subjects range from travel, scenery, plants,

to animals. In some instances, the Institutional Services Librarian has made cassette recordings to accompany the slides or is able to lend out records.

*Catalogs of films and slides may be obtained from Institutional Services, Central Library, or any branch library.

GAMES

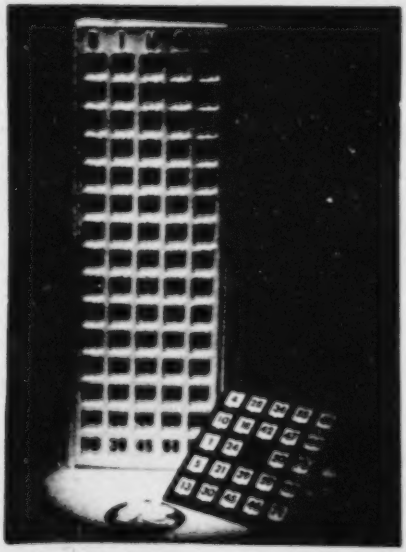
Backgammon

Raised and depressed rectangles enable the Backgammon pieces to fit snugly in the raised and lower areas. Those with poor eyesight will easily be able to stack men on the same point. Object of the game is to move all your men from your opponent's inner house clockwise around and off the board through your own inner house. A game can last a half hour to several hours depending on one's strategy. Can be played by blind

persons.

Bingo

Board has recessed white squares that contain large black print numerals and braille symbols.



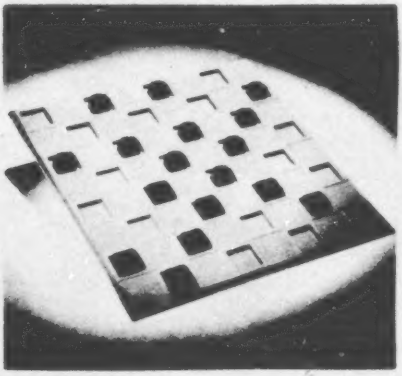
*Any of these games can be borrowed from Houston Public Library. Call BOOKS-BY-MAIL (869-0318), CARNEGIE BRANCH LIBRARY (227-9177), or INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES (869-9046).

Cards, Jumbo

Available are the standard decks and pinochle decks. Oversized symbols and numbers are most helpful for persons with impaired vision.

Checker Set

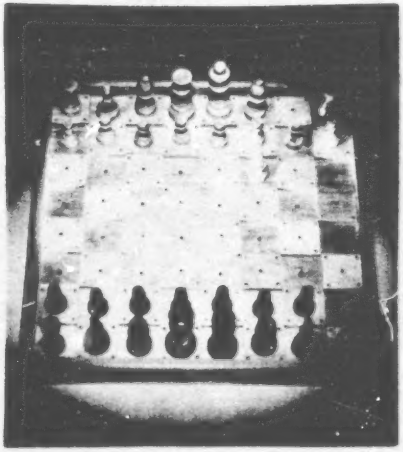
Board is 12" square with recessed and sunken 1" squares. Round and square men distinguish sides for those with sight problems.



Chess Set

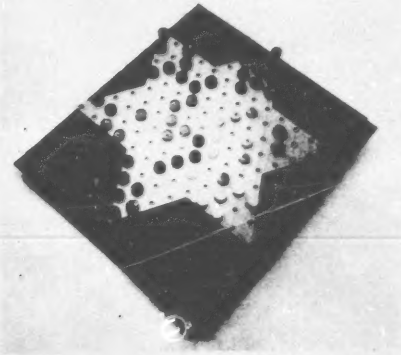
Board has raised and lowered squares. Men are equipped with metal pegs which fit into holes on the board. Colors are distinguished by having

"flats" sanded on the white.



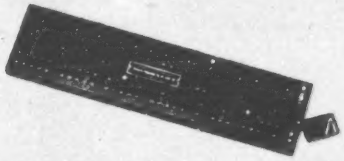
Chinese Checkers

A two-part board measures 12" square with the playing area able to be removed from the base. Six differently shaped sets of men are provided for easy identification.



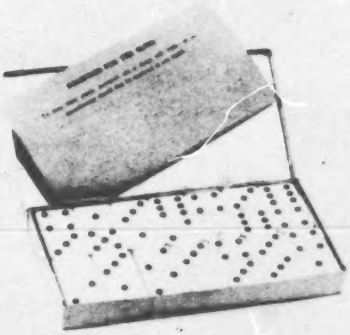
Cribbage Board

A brown aluminum board with raised scoring holes for easy location. Sliding tray underneath holds scoring pegs which are marked for identification. Rubber "feet" prevent table top scratches.



Dominoes

Standard 28-piece set of heavy duty plastic. Very prominent raised black "dots" contrast with a white background.

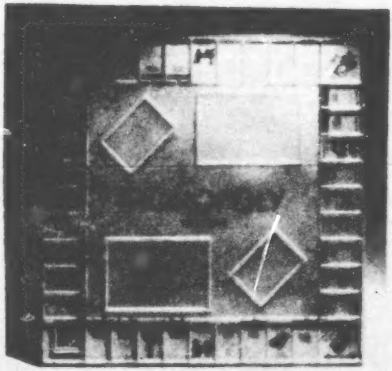


Hi-Q Puzzle

Plastic pegs fit into holes in the board. One of the 33 holes is left blank at the start. Object is to remove all pegs except one, by jumping as in checkers. An excellent solitaire game which can be played with many variations.

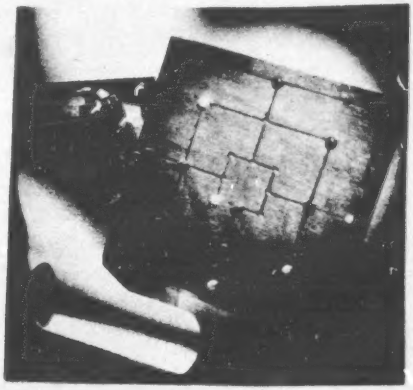
Monopoly

Object of the game is to collect more wealth than your opponents. All property names and selling prices are overlayed in braille. The Community Chess and Chance cards are combined Braille and inkprint and are 3" by 5". Money is also in braille, so the game can easily be played by blind and/or sighted persons. The dice have raised dots.



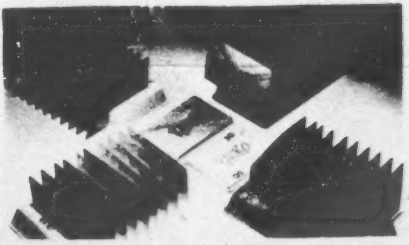
Nine Men's Morris

Played by two players, the object is to get three men in a row, which entitles player to remove one of opponent's men. The game is over when all of one player's men have been removed.



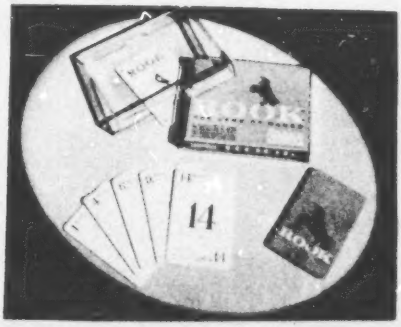
Rack-O

A card game where the object is to be first to replace cards in your rack by drawing cards from the pile so that numbers read in any numerical progression from Low to High. Can be played by two, three, or four players as partners.



Rook

Basic card game with 23 variations. Object is to be the first player to reach game score by capturing "tricks". Usually several hands must be played before there is a winner.

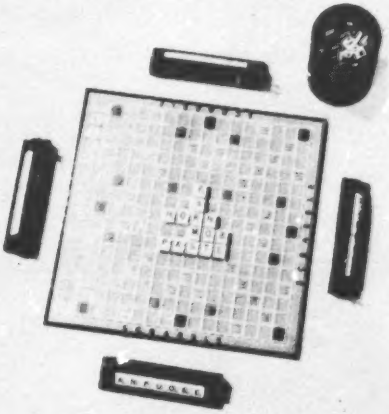


Score Four

Similar to Tic-Tac-Toe except that it is played in three dimensions and four rows. Object is to position four men of the same shape in a straight line on any level and any angle.

Scrabble

Game can be played by blind and/or sighted persons. Braille symbols have been placed on top of the regular board. Tiles, inkprint and braille, fit securely into the board. Board is easily revolved when placed on a flat surface.



Tic-Tac-Three

Follows the rules of Tic-Tac-Toe, but has many more variations and can be played by two or more players.

TEXAS STATE LIBRARY

The Texas State Library Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Box 12927 Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, will provide a range of materials to any person who cannot read ordinary printed materials because of blindness, poor vision, or a physical disability that prevents holding a book or turning its pages. Available are the "Reader's Digest", "New York Times Magazine", and other magazines in large print; books in braille or large print; talking books (recordings) and books and magazines on open reel and cassette tape. In addition, one can obtain bibles, encyclopedias, and dictionaries. A reader merely selects from a catalog what he or she wants to "read". Equipment and repairs are supplied upon request. One can also request the use of magnifiers, page turners, prism glasses, and reading stands. By calling the Library, a reader can obtain forms and additional information.

One may also call a toll free

number, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., directly to Texas State Library at 1-800-292-9605.

TALKING BOOK MACHINE

LIST OF MANUFACTURERS

American Foundation for the Blind
15 West 16th Street
New York, New York 10011
(Games, Telephone Dials, and Signature Guides)

American Printing House for the Blind
1839 Frankfort Avenue (P.O. Box 6085)
Louisville, Kentucky 40206
(Signature Guides, Various Braille Devices, and Book Holders)

Bausch and Lomb
1 Lincoln First Square
Rochester, New York 14601
Phone: (716) 232-6001
(Readers and Magnifiers)

Bernell Corporation
314-316 South Eddy
South Bend, Indiana 46617
(Bedspecs or Prism Glasses)

G.E. Miller, Inc.
484 South Broadway
Yonkers, New York 10705
(Book Butlers or Book Holders)

Houston Trunk Factory
727 Main Street (main office, other locations)
Houston, Texas 78205
(Readers and Magnifiers)

*Catalogs supplied upon request from any of these organizations.

HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AGENCIES SERVING YOU

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BOOKS-BY-MAIL
3102 Center Street
Houston, Texas 77007
Phone: 869-0318

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CARNEGIE BRANCH LIBRARY
1209 Henry Street
Houston, Texas 77009
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